

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION CUMMISSION 1 **DOUG LITTLE** 2 Arizona Corporation Commission Chairman **BOB STUMP** 3 DOCKETED Commissioner 4 **BOB BURNS** AUG 19 2016 Commissioner TOM FORESE 5 DOCKETED BY Commissioner 6 ANDY TOBIN Commissioner 7 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION DOCKET NO. E-01575A-16-0232 8 DECISION NO. _ OF SULPHUR SPRINGS VALLEY 9 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR THE 2016 NET METERING TARIFF WITH **ORDER** 10 UPDATED AVOIDED COST. 11 12 Open Meeting August 9 and 10, 2016 13 Phoenix, Arizona 14 BY THE COMMISSION: 15 **FINDINGS OF FACT** 16 1. 17 electric service as a public service corporation in the State of Arizona. 18

- Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("SSVEC") is certificated to provide
- 2. On July 1, 2016, SSVEC filed an application for approval to update the avoided cost that is contained in its Net Metering Tariff.

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- SSVEC's Net Metering Tariff was approved by the Commission in Decision No. 3. 71463 (January 26, 2010) and most recently revised with updated avoided costs in Decision No. 75225 (August 26, 2015).
- 4. The Net Metering rules allow electric utility customers to be compensated for generating their own energy from renewable resources, fuel cells, or Combined Heat and Power. If the customer's energy production exceeds the energy supplied by SSVEC during a billing period, the customer's bill for subsequent billing periods is credited for the excess generation. That is, the excess kWh generated during the billing period is used to reduce the kWh billed by SSVEC during subsequent billing periods.

5. Each September (or for a customer's final bill upon discontinuance of service), SSVEC credits the customer for the balance of any remaining excess kWh. The payment for the purchase of these excess kWh is at SSVEC's annual average avoided cost, which is specified on the Net Metering Tariff. Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C.") R14-2-2302(1) defines avoided costs as "the incremental cost to an Electric Utility for electric energy or capacity or both which, but for the purchase from the Net Metering facility, such utility would generate itself or purchase from another source."

- 6. SSVEC's Net Metering Tariff provides for the annual average avoided cost to be determined by the average wholesale fuel and energy cost per kWh charged by SSVEC's wholesale power suppliers during the previous 12 months calculated with the receipt of the May wholesale power bills. SSVEC is required to file its updated avoided cost calculations with the Commission no later than July 1 of each year. This updated avoided cost, after approval by the Commission, would become effective on September 1.
- 7. SSVEC's current approved avoided cost rate is \$0.0258 per kWh. SSVEC proposes that the rate be decreased to \$0.0249 per kWh. Staff has reviewed SSVEC's purchased power costs that resulted in the \$0.0249 per kWh rate and confirms that the proposed rate reflects SSVEC's avoided cost.
- 8. Therefore, Staff has recommended that SSVEC's proposed annual average avoided cost for its Net Metering Tariff of \$0.0249 per kWh be approved, and become effective September 1, 2016.
- 9. Staff has further recommended that SSVEC be required to file, with Docket Control, a revised Net Metering Tariff consistent with the Decision in this case within 15 days of the effective date of the Decision.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. SSVEC is an Arizona public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV, Section 2, of the Arizona Constitution.
- 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over SSVEC and over the subject matter of the application.

Decision No.	75704

3. Approval of the revised Avoided Cost rate does not constitute a rate increase as contemplated by A.R.S. Section 40-250.

4. The Commission, having reviewed the application and Staff's Memorandum dated July

4. The Commission, having reviewed the application and Staff's Memorandum dated July 26, 2016, concludes that it is in the public interest to approve the revised avoided cost rate in SSVEC's Net Metering Tariff as discussed herein.

<u>ORDER</u>

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s annual average avoided cost rate for its Net Metering Tariff shall be set at \$0.0249 per kWh, effective September 1, 2016.

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Decision No.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. shall file, with Docket Control, a revised Net Metering Tariff consistent with the Decision in this case within 15 days of the effective date of the Decision.

4	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Decision shall become effective immediately.
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7	BY THE ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
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9	CHAIRMAN LITTLE COMMISSIONER STUMP
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.2	COMMISSIONER FORESE COMMISSIONER TOBIN COMMISSIONER BURNS
3	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, JODI A. JERICH, Executive
4	Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have
5	hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this 19th day of 1950st , 2016.
6	Phoenix, this <u>IGM</u> day of <u>Physis</u> , 2016.
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18	Jodi A. Jerich
9	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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21	DISSENT:
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Decision No.

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75704 Decision No. _____

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